



Press Release:

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For Immediate Release
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James Taps D.C. Official to Head Up Administration

Sixteen years ago, when Mayor Sharpe James first took the oath of office as Newark's 36th mayor, he launched a nationwide search with the help of Newark's business community to find a business administrator.

In 1987, Richard Monteilh (pronounced Montay) was lured from his job as Deputy Chief Administrative Officer in Atlanta to preside over Newark's day to day operations during James first term. He left Newark in 1991 just as the first massive residential and economic development projects began to take off, when Atlanta coaxed him back to become the executive director of the Metropolitan Atlanta Olympic Games Authority, the governmental agency responsible for financial and construction oversight for the Atlanta Committee prior, during and after the 1996 Olympic Games.

His successes in acquiring \$1.7 billion in private funds to stage the Olympic Games caught the attention of officials in the nation's capital, he convinced him to relocate and take on the challenging position of director of Washington, D.C.'s Department of Housing and Community Development, where he was instrumental in bringing together an array of historically fragmented business, political and academic leaders to formulate a single vision for economic development in the District. In 1999, Monteilh was selected President of the D.C. Chamber of Commerce.

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In the past decade, Monteilh has kept a watchful eye on New Jersey's largest city, maintaining a friendship with the Mayor, staying in contact with other public officials and business leaders and keeping abreast of Newark's revitalization efforts. As a matter of fact, he never sold the condo he bought when the old Newark News Building was turned into Renaissance Towers in what was heralded as the beginning of the City's residential and downtown rebirth. Instead, he opted to rent it out over the years, hoping some day to return to Newark. Especially since his wife's family—he met her when he worked in Newark—lives in the area.

"I always enjoyed my time in Newark, finding it exciting and challenging and I admire how Mayor James has positioned this city to become a major force in the global economy of the 21st century," Monteilh maintains.

And for someone who has played a leading role in boosting the economy of some major American cities, this financial wizard finds the challenges and potential Newark poses too exciting to pass up.

Immediately following his inauguration to a fifth term as Newark's mayor and the swearing in of the municipal council on Monday, James will present his reorganization plan to the governing body for its approval. Included in the plan are the individuals he has chosen to guide his administration for the next four years. Heading up that list will be Richard Monteilh as business administrator.

The City's current administrator, Harold Lucas is slated to return to the Newark Housing Authority as executive director, a position he vacated when he was tapped by President Bill Clinton to become Department of Housing and Urban Development's Undersecretary for Public Housing and Indian Affairs. James said that Lucas will direct the NHA's \$35 million Hope VI grant program, which will provide for an entire new neighborhood including such amenities as a shopping mall in the Central Ward.

In making the announcement of his top cabinet choice, James said, "Richard Monteilh is the consummate professional, who left his heart in Newark over 10 years ago. We have watched his meteoric rise through the ranks of public administration professionals and the national attention he has received for his successes. We couldn't be more pleased of his decision to return to Newark to help steer this great American city to its rightful place among America's and the world's markets."

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The Mayor called Monteilh "a no-nonsense manager, with an aggressive leadership style and strong work ethic, who is also a caring and fair boss eager to provide opportunities for young people and those who demonstrate productivity and share his work ethic."

James said that the administrator is familiar with the Newark community, both citizens and the corporate sector, and noted that Monteilh had pressed for partnerships between the two in the early days of his administration. "It is the concept and goal of forging such partnerships that have driven so many of Newark's successes and achievements over the years," he said.

Raised in Phoenix with 12 siblings, Monteilh is a graduate of Grand Canyon College in Phoenix and holds a Master's degree in urban administration from Occidental College in Los Angeles. He received a fellowship in public management from Yale and completed a senior executive fellowship for government officials at Harvard.

Also joining the Mayor's team as Director of Housing and Economic Development is Niathan Allan, Ph.D., a Newark native and current program executive for the Community Development and Technical Assistance Program at the Congress of National Black Churches, Inc. (CNBC) in Washington, D.C.

A heavy hitter both academically and professionally in the areas of housing and economic development, Allen currently oversees the allocation of technical resources to nine states and multiple jurisdictions for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This includes implementing a partnership agreement with Bank of American in select cities across the country to bring "on line" low-to-moderate income housing units. CNBC provides technical assistance to faith-based groups and community organizations as part of HUD's Demand Response System.

"Dr. Allen brings a wealth of experience and outstanding contacts to Newark," said the Mayor. "With a big emphasis on building more housing in the neighborhoods over the next four years, his housing knowledge and experience in working with faith based organizations and other local groups will be invaluable as we continue the revitalization of our residential communities."

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Allen was the first African-American to serve as executive director of the famous Henry Street Settlement. He was also president of the Lena Park Community Development Corporation in Boston, where he was responsible for conceptualizing and developing 300 units of housing, which won two national awards and provided direction and oversight of a \$30 million budget. In addition, he has been deputy to the Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine in New York, deputy regional director for the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service and director of contract compliance at the University of Cincinnati, where he received his doctoral degree.

A graduate of Newark's Central High School, Allen holds a bachelor's degree from Johnson C. Smith University in North Carolina and a Master's of Social Work from Atlanta University (Clark Atlanta University).

Edward Dunham, a retired Newark fire chief is proposed to take over the reins of the 693 member Newark Fire Department. Dunham, who has served as an affirmative action specialist in the department since his retirement in July 2000, is a fire career officer who joined the department as a firefighter in June 1970 and rose up the ranks to captain until he was named chief by the Mayor in 1998.

"Our Fire Department will face a mandate to integrate our firehouses, to improve personnel's morale and to give firefighters and community services a higher priority than politics," the Mayor said, noting Dunham's training and dedication enable him to meet this challenge.

The fire official has been the prime mover of efforts to recruit and train minority personnel for the department. Among his duties were the investigation of sexual harassment and discrimination within the department.

Another official, who will assume leadership position in the new term is Dr. Colleen Walton, a podiatrist, adjunct professor at Essex County College, coordinator of Newark's Victim/Witness Advocacy Program and community activist, who will become acting director of the Department of Neighborhood Services. The Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs (DORCA), currently part of this agency will be moved under the aegis of the Office of the Mayor.

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Walton, a graduate of Hunter College and the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, teaches a course in healthy living at the Essex County College and has been an employee of the City's Department of Health and Human Services since 1997. She began as a community liaison serving as an advocate for Medicare/Welfare and Medicaid recipients and overseeing Pharmaceutical Assistance for the Aged, Lifeline and housing applications before becoming program coordinator for the Victim/Witness Advocacy Program. Previously, she was in private podiatric practice.

"Dr. Walton is a longtime community activist and advocate, who understands full well the needs of the Newark community," said the Mayor. She is a hands on manager, who has intricate knowledge of systems and procedures, and will stay on top of a problem until it is resolved and eradicated."

Marshall Cooper, the current department director will be reassigned and given other administrative duties, the chief executive stated.

James is also calling for the reappointment of Corporation Council JoAnne Watson, Health and Human Services Director Catherine Cuomo-Cecere and Director of Water and Sewer Utilities Philip LiVecchi. Current Finance Director Ronald Jean will remain in an acting capacity.

The Mayor said a search will be conducted for the director of the Department of Engineering. He noted, "Interviews for police director are ongoing and will continue," with a nominee expected to be before the governing body by their July 1 reorganization meeting.

The Mayor is proposing some organizational alterations, as well as personnel changes. In addition to transferring the Division of Recreation and Cultural Affairs to the Office of the Mayor and Agencies, the Division of Social Services, which comprises the Office on Aging and Elderly Nutrition, SunUp and Relocation Assistance programs, currently in the Department of Health and Human Services, also will come under his umbrella.

Several new divisions will be added to the Department of Health and Human Services, including: medical services; surveillance and prevention, and planning. The only other administrative change is the transfer of the Division of Planning from the Department of Economic and Housing Development to the Business Administrator's office.

The organizational changes, as well as the Mayor's nominations for department directors, are expected to be approved by the Municipal Council at its reorganization meeting immediately following Inauguration ceremonies Monday at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.